

Mayor
Debbie Holland

Mayor Pro-tem
Michael J. Smith
Place 3

City Manager



Council Members

Anne Cano, Place 1

Tom Hines, Place 2

Ronnie Quintanilla-Perez
Place 3

Lucio Valdez, Place 5

Max Yeste, Place 6

HUTTO HEADLINES

Ensuring Hutto's Safety Part 2: Hutto Police Department's Workload Analysis

"Ensuring Hutto's Safety" is a series of educational presentations for the City Council to begin mapping the future of Hutto's public safety services. With the community's continued growth, this series is an opportunity to begin working on customizing the delivery of services for the continued safety of Hutto residents. The series is designed to provide information on Hutto's needs and to explore emerging trends and technological advances to secure Hutto's future as a safe city. On Thursday, May 7th, Police Chief Earl Morrison addressed the staffing challenges in the Hutto Police Department.

The Hutto Police Department has been operating with the same number of officers since 2010. In those five years, the eleven officers on patrol everyday have experienced a 167% increase in calls. It is anticipated that in 2015, the number of calls for service will exceed the population of Hutto. Chief Morrison estimates that by the end of 2015, six HPD officers will be averaging 70 calls per day. "One call can take 5 mins or 4 hours... depends on the type of call. Wreck at a busy intersection? All officers on duty are tied up."

How is HPD handling the tremendous increase in workload? . On an average day, officers working a 12 hour shift on patrol can expect to spend about seven hours on calls for service. By growing the force, HPD officers would be able to approach policing differently. "For us, additional officers would result in lower call load per officer. We would have more contact with citizens to be able to take a proactive rather than reactive approach to serving the community."

Chief Morrison explained that one of the reasons Hutto remains such a safe community is because Hutto police officers spend time checking on businesses, understanding neighborhoods and pulling over suspicious vehicles before a resident even calls 911. However, the time available to perform these preventative actions has decreased 40% in the last five years. With better call distribution, our officers would have time to continue preventative policing with time left in the day to work with community members, attend community events and proactively patrol and investigate.

Chief Morrison went on to say that violent crime is very low in Hutto. "Safety is a combined effort. Our partnership with the community is what makes us a safe city. When Hutto was named 4th safest city in Texas (valuepenguin.com), it was an honor that was not taken lightly. Citizens report Public Safety as a top priority when surveyed. They also report satisfaction with the Hutto Police Department - a reputation we've worked hard to earn."

To put everything in perspective, HPD has experienced a 120% increase in calls since 2008, an 85% population increase and 0% police department personnel increase. With all that said, HPD also experiences a consistent growth in citizen satisfaction. Proof positive that Hutto police officers are dedicated to supporting and protecting our home.

Questions? Contact Christina Kane-Gibson, City of Hutto Public Information Officer, at christina.kane-gibson@huttotx.gov or call (512)759-4034

